

CHESTER J. CULVER GOVERNOR

## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

PATTY JUDGE LT. GOVERNOR

August 20, 2010

Secretary Raymond H. LaHood Secretary of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

RE: Iowa DOT TIGER II Discretionary Grant request for a priority transportation project located on Interstate 29 in Sioux City, Iowa.

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am pleased to express my support for the Iowa Department of Transportation's (DOT) application for TIGER II funding for a priority transportation project located on Interstate 29 in Sioux City, Iowa. This project would boost potential job creation and positive economic activity in an economically depressed area. As a state and local priority, the project has received substantial financial commitments from the DOT and the city of Sioux City.

The project is included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the 2010-2014 Iowa Transportation Improvement Program.

I encourage your full consideration of this application.

Sincerely.

Chester J. Culver Governor of Iowa

cc: Nancy Richardson, DOT

STATE CAPITOL DES MOINES, IOWA 50319 515.281.5211 FAX 515.281.6611 WWW.GOVERNOR.STATE.IA.US

800 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50010

515-239-1111 FAX: 515-239-1120

July 13, 2010

Mr. Raymond LaHood Secretary of Transportation U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave, SE Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I respectfully request support for TIGER II funding for a priority transportation project located on Interstate 29 in Sioux City, Iowa.

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) believes this project is a worthy candidate for TIGER II funding which would ensure potential job creation and positive economic activity for an economically depressed area. This project is a state and local priority and, as such, has received substantial financial commitments from the DOT and the city of Sioux City. The project is included in the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) and the 2010-2014 Iowa Transportation Improvement Program.

Should you have any questions or need additional information about this project, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Richardson

Director

NJR:ckw

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1502

(202) 224–3254 FAX: (202) 224–9369 TTY (202) 224–4633 http://harkin.senate.gov

> COMMITTEES: AGRICULTURE

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HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

SMALL BUSINESS

August 19, 2010

Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Ave. S.E. Washington, D.C. 20590

Re. Iowa DOT TIGER II grant request for Interstate 29 Segment 2 Improvements

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my support for the Iowa Department of Transportation's application for TIGER II grant funding to support Interstate 29 Segment 2 improvements.

The Interstate 29 Segment 2 project involves reconstruction of approximately 3.5 miles of I-29 through the downtown district of Sioux City, Iowa. Specifically, this includes the reconstruction of five interchanges, nine bridges, nearly four miles of frontage/city streets, and more than a quarter-mile of trails. Municipal utilities are also being relocated to make way for the transportation improvements.

These improvements contribute toward the overall goal of enhancing the safety and operation of I-29 through Sioux City. I support this project and respectfully encourage your full consideration of the application.

Tom Harkin

**United States Senator** 

TH/jnm

# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-1505

August 12, 2010

AGRICULTURE

COMMITTEES:

Aditioolione

**JUDICIARY** 

POLICY

SMALL BUSINESS

Secretary Ray LaHood U.S. Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Iowa DOT TIGER II grant request for I-29 Segment 2 improvements

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my support of the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) application for TIGER II grant funding for the Interstate 29 Segment 2 improvements.

According to IDOT officials, the Interstate 29 Segment 2 project involves reconstruction of approximately 3.5 miles of I-29 through the downtown district of Sioux City, Iowa. This includes the reconstruction of five interchanges, nine bridges, nearly four miles of frontage for city streets, and more than a quarter-mile of trails. I have been informed that municipal utilities are also being relocated to make way for the transportation improvements.

These improvements are important to the safety and operations of I-29 through Sioux City. I urge your full and fair consideration of the application.

If you need further assistance with this request, feel free to call my Sioux City, Iowa office at (712) 224-4692. For more information about this application, you may contact Dan Franklin, IDOT Director of Policy and Legislative Services at (515) 239-1131.

Your attention to this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Steve King

Member of Congress

SK\sh

Steve King

#### RON WIECK STATE SENATOR Twenty-seventh District Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

HOME ADDRESS 4362 Old Lakeport Road Sioux City, Iowa 51106 H: (712) 276-4008

ron.wieck@legis.state.ia.us



## The Senate

State of Iowa
Eighty-third General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

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**COMMITTEES** 

Business and Labor Relations Commerce, Ranking Member Government Oversight Veterans Affairs Economic Growth State Government

Wednesday August 11, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood Secretary of the Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20590

Re. Iowa DOT TIGER II grant request for Interstate 29 Segment 2 Improvements

Dear Secretary LaHood:

I am writing to express my support for the Iowa Department of Transportation's application for TIGER II grant funding to support Interstate 29 Segment 2 improvements.

The Interstate 29 Segment 2 project involves reconstruction of approximately three and a half miles through the downtown district of Sioux City, Iowa. Specifically, this includes the reconstruction of five interchanges, nine bridges, nearly four miles of frontage/city streets, and more than a quarter-mile of trails. Municipal utilities are also being relocated to make way for the transportation improvements.

These improvements contribute toward the overall goal of enhancing the safety and operation of I-29 through Sioux City. I support this project and respectfully encourage your full consideration of the application.

Sincerely.

Senator Ron Wieck

### STEVE WARNSTADT STATE SENATOR First District

Statehouse: (515) 281-3371

HOME ADDRESS 3301 Chambers Street Sioux City, Iowa 51104 H: (712) 258-3705 steven.warnstadt@legis.state.ia.us



## The Senate

State of Iowa
Eighty-third General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

#### **COMMITTEES**

Appropriations
Commerce, Chair
Judiciary
Transportation
Veterans Affairs, Vice-chair

Transportation, Infrastructure and Capitals
Appropriations
Subcommittee, Vice-chair

August 12, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood Secretary of the Department of Transportation 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E. Washington, D.C. 20590

Re. Iowa DOT TIGER II grant request for Interstate 29 Segment 2 Improvements

Dear Secretary LaHood,

I am writing to express my support for the Iowa Department of Transportation's application for TIGER II grant funding to support Interstate 29 Segment 2 improvements.

The Interstate 29 Segment 2 project involves reconstruction of approximately 3.5 miles of I-29 through the downtown district of Sioux City, Iowa. Specifically, this includes the reconstruction of five interchanges, nine bridges, nearly four miles of frontage/city streets, and more than a quarter-mile of trails. Municipal utilities are also being relocated to make way for the transportation improvements.

These improvements contribute toward the overall goal of enhancing the safety and operation of I-29 through Sioux City, and improve commerce along this international corridor. I support this project and respectfully encourage your full consideration of the application.

Sincerely,

Steve Warnstadt

State Senator





1122 PIERCE STREET
PO BOX 1077
SIOUX CITY IOWA 51102-1077
TELEPHONE (712) 279-6286
FAX (712) 279-6920
E-MAIL simpco@simpco.org

August 18, 2010

Mr. John Adam, Highway Division Administrator Iowa Department of Transportation 800 Lincoln Way Ames IA 50010

Dear Mr. Adam:

The Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO) supports the TIGER II Grant proposal for the Iowa Department of Transportation to secure funding for the Wesley Parkway Interchange improvements located within Segment 2 of the I-29 project. As a council of governments operating in northwest Iowa, northeast Nebraska and southeast South Dakota, SIMPCO is closely aligned with the tri-state area's transportation and economic development; and acknowledges Wesley Parkway is an integral transportation mechanism within the metropolitan region.

The recent closure of John Morrell & Company and displacement of the Terra Industries headquarter offices has created an economic depression in the Siouxland area. The Wesley Parkway Interchange and Segment 2 of the I-29 project are extremely important to rebuilding the economic conditions in the region.

Thank you for your consideration. We hope you look favorably upon Iowa Department of Transportation's TIGER II grant proposal.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact us at (712) 279-6286 or <a href="mailto:simpco@simpco.org">simpco@simpco.org</a>.

Sincerely

Jane Gilbert

Co, Executive Director

Dwight Lang

Co-Executive Director



August 13, 2010

John Adam Highway Division Administrator Iowa Department of Transportation 800 Lincoln Way Ames, IA 50010

#### Dear Mr. Adam:

It is my pleasure to offer my full support to your efforts to procure funding for the Interstate 29 reconstruction project that is of such immense importance to Sioux City residents and businesses. I appreciate your leadership in procuring the funds necessary to ensure the continued success of the I-29 reconstruction project. It is difficult to understate the importance of adequate transportation infrastructure to the future of Sioux City, and I am glad to support your application for construction funding through the TIGER 2 grant program.

Sioux City's history is rooted in manufacturing and food processing, two industries heavily dependent upon the interstate system, and I have personally heard of the difficulties our local companies face in moving finished products through Sioux City. We are truly competing on an international scale, and our local industries are dependent upon adequate transportation infrastructure to retain their competitive edge.

As Sioux City works to recover from the recent closure of both its largest employer, John Morrell Company, and the headquarters of its only publicly traded company, Terra Industries, we recognize the importance of adequate transportation for our existing industry. The proposed reconstruction of I-29 will improve a stretch of interstate critical to the movement of goods manufactured in Sioux City, mitigate the consequences of industrial closures by improving the competitiveness of our existing industry, and enhance our prospects for attracting new employers.

Perhaps the most important element of the I-29 project is its impact on the redevelopment of our downtown. The Wesley Parkway interchange will dramatically improve access to and from our downtown, which is transforming into a regional cultural and entertainment center. We've already seen major public and private investments in the redevelopment of the Pearl Street Historic corridor, an area that will be directly served by the new Wesley Parkway interchange. The viability of these and future investments in our downtown are dependent upon improvements to I-29 through downtown Sioux City.

The City is working in close partnership with our local MPO, the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce, and the Iowa Department of Transportation to develop a clear vision for transportation infrastructure through Sioux City. I believe the plans we have for I-29 through our downtown are necessary and timely, and I am certain that investments made through the TIGER 2 grant funding will substantially contribute to the economic viability of Sioux City.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this project, and please let me know if there is anything I can do to help further this most important project.

Sincerely,

Michael M. Hobart

Michael M. Habert

Mayor



August 16, 2010

John Adam Highway Division Administrator Iowa Department of Transportation 800 Lincoln Way Ames, IA 50010

#### Dear Mr. Adam:

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to IDOT's application for transportation funding through the TIGER 2 grant. The upcoming I-29 reconstruction project will be transformative for Sioux City as our community moves beyond the recent closures of John Morrell and Terra Industries. I appreciate the work that you have done to further this project, and I am happy to offer my support and some perspective on the importance of the project to Sioux City.

Several sections of Sioux City will benefit directly from the reconstruction of I-29, most notably downtown and the underserved west side. The City is partnering with the Iowa Department of Transportation to construct the Wesley Parkway, a new corridor connecting I-29 with west downtown, the West 7<sup>th</sup> commercial area, and the Hamilton Boulevard commercial corridor. When completed, Wesley Parkway will provide a long sought direct connection between Sioux City's west side and a rapidly transforming downtown. It will also open the West 7<sup>th</sup> area, a historically disadvantaged commercial area, to new investment and future growth. The section between I-29 and West 7<sup>th</sup> Street was completed in 2001 as part of a \$100 million Army Corps of Engineers flood control project, and the next phase extending the roadway to Hamilton Boulevard will begin construction next year at an estimated cost of \$6.5 million.

We have seen significant private investment in both new construction and building rehabilitation in anticipation of the Wesley Parkway interchange. The recently constructed Stoney Creek Inn is ideally situated on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street , and the City is leveraging major investments in streetscape improvements with the private redevelopment of several historic buildings in the burgeoning Pearl Street Historic District. Both areas will be served by the new interchange, and together will revive west downtown.

The I-29 reconstruction project, which the TIGER 2 grant will partially fund, is tremendously important to Sioux City. The downtown section in particular is a crucial element in reshaping of our downtown into a regional commercial and cultural center. The new Wesley Parkway interchange is essential to the ongoing redevelopment of Sioux City, and I am glad to offer my support and assistance to make the I-29 project a success.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Dougherty

**Economic Development Director** 

Meather Dughert



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W siouxlandchamber.com
E chamber@siouxlandchamber.com

Mr. John Adam Highway Division Administrator Iowa DOT 800 Lincoln Way Ames, Iowa 50010

Dear Mr. Adam:

This letter is written in support of the lowa Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application of a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II grant for Segment 2 of the Interstate 29 project in Sioux City, Iowa. The project proposed in this application is very appropriate relative to targeting US DOT funds to transportation projects that *generate economic* recovery because of the resent closure of two significant businesses in Sioux City.

In the first quarter of 2010 John Morrell & Company and Terra Industries Headquarter operations ceased to exist in Sioux City. The cumulative impact of these closures resulted in the loss of approximately 1,600 jobs – or nearly 4 percent of our local labor force. What is more, Segment 2 improvements – particularly the Wesley Parkway Interchange is of great significance to these districts because they transition vehicles from I-29 to the central business district and key industrial corridors. Ultimately, the planned improvements will facilitate improved access for personal vehicles, public transportation, and truck traffic. In addition, I-29 is a designated NAFTA Corridor and is a critical market-to-market connector.

The Siouxland Chamber of Commerce is a regional chamber with nearly 1,000 investors in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota. The reconstruction of Segment 2 of I-29 is critical for future development and accommodating over 57 percent of the existing regional workforce that uses the corridor to commute to places of employment.

Traffic counts on this segment continue to rise and are adding pressure to the capacity of this facility that is nearly 50 years old. The proposed improvements will help expedite the project schedule and ultimately create a facility that is improved – both operationally and safety conscious. What is more, these improvements will address increased traffic demands well into the future.

The Siouxland community and IDOT have always taken a long-term planning view of our infrastructure needs. What is more, we have a more immediate concern to enhance this corridor and create reinvestment opportunities for those businesses that have closed or experienced a significant reduction in force. With the U.S. DOT's assistance we can help turn this trend around.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely

Jolin C. Williams

Chair

Siouxland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Why we choose Stouchand ...